WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 10 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | FEBRUARY 2001

"But if you're willfully stupid, you don't know any better, so you can keep doing whatever you like!" Calvin and Hobbes

Miller Brewery:

Phillip Morris Attempts To Engage In Corporate Extortion

WIP News Service

This community is under corporate siege, but you may not be aware of it yet. In 1999 the Miller Brewing Company ($4.1 billion in sales in 1998), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Philip Morris Companies, Inc. ($78.6 billion in revenues in 1999; the 27th largest corporation in the world by revenues), purchased the tiny Tumwater brewery, and the president of Miller stated in a press release: "Miller is committed to the communities in which we do business, and we look forward to playing an active role in Tumwater and the surrounding area." In less than six months, Phillip Morris, through Miller began negotiating with LOTT (Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and Thurston County—This is our local municipal wastewater management partnership) regarding the amount Phillip Morris should pay as its fair share of the $48 million 1994 upgrade to the central sewer processing plant the brewery has been using for waste disposal. Less-than-diligent LOTT officials had neglected for years to collect that share from the brewery. Initially LOTT said Phillip Morris owed $5.9 million, but during later rounds of negotiations a slightly more diligent contingent from Phillip Morris got LOTT to whittled this figure down to $4.2 million (though Phillip Morris still believes that figure is too high) —this is money that other ratepayers would have to pay if Phillip Morris did not. Phillip Morris refused to pay anything at all, and in fact a Phillip Morris official threatened to keep LOTT tied up in litigation for years if they tried to collect.

Phillip Morris also announced plans to expand the capacity of the brewery. In order to satisfy its expansion plans, Phillip Morris announced it would detach from the LOTT system and build its own waste disposal facility. Phillip Morris then told LOTT that since it was relinquishing disposal plant capacity, LOTT should pay Phillip Morris for the relinquished capacity. LOTT demurred on the sensible ground that it should not have to pay Phillip Morris for voluntarily relinquishing capacity. If Phillip Morris no longer wished to use the LOTT system, it could go its own way, but because the relinquishment was voluntary, LOTT had no legal or moral obligation to pay. **PHILLIP MORRIS then threatened to close the brewery and put their 250 employees out of work if LOTT did not pay**. Months of negotiation ensued, and Phillip Morris' threat to close the brewery hovered over the negotiations process. The company blatantly and overtly held its workers hostage in an attempt to extort money from the local communities.

This apparently is how Phillip Morris intends to demonstrate its "commitment" to "Tumwater and the surrounding area."

The local elected officials on the LOTT supervisory committee ultimately succumbed to Phillip Morris' extortion, and recently announced it had concluded a deal whereby LOTT ratepayers would pay Phillip Morris $8,000,000 in stages as they voluntarily stopped using the LOTT system. In another part of the deal, there is a forgiveness of the $4.2 million debt Phillip Morris owes for the 1994 system upgrades. Thus, the total cost of this odious deal will be a $12.2 million bill to the area's ratepayers. The debt forgiveness portion of the deal is in all actuality a debt transference from Phillip Morris to the ratepayers in the community.

This is more than corporate welfare—this is extortion, plain and simple. Community members should question a deal that pays Phillip Morris millions of dollars so that they may fulfill their desire to increase corporate profits. There is no logical reason to pay Phillip Morris for sewer capacity it is voluntarily giving up, but Thurston County politicians aren't accustomed to going toe to toe with the 29th largest corporation in the world. It's like sending Bambi to fight Godzilla.

The deal is not official until both the Olympia and Tumwater city councils vote to approve it. **Citizens opposed to corporate extortion of public money should inform their city and county councilmembers of their opposition and show up at the meetings to testify against this disgraceful misuse of public funds.** ◆

Police Accountability Study

Pat Tassoni

A study of the Olympia Police Accountabililty System was recently released and the results reflect what activists have been saying for years: it isn't good enough.

Before you look at who it serves, let's first look at how it has not been of service. In the Walters study, an audit of the past complaints was done and "there appeared to be a lack of sufficient attention to detail and an insufficient level of organizational importance and monitoring accorded this critical function of police operations." As *The Olympian* editorial on this subject said: "In other words, complaints against police aren't accorded much importance in Olympia." The report goes on to say that there is poor record-keeping and poor follow-through as well as poor oversight by the assistant city attorney on citizen complaints against the police.

The Chief of Police has already implemented recommendations from the Walters report to improve the current system of police accountability. Is this enough? To answer that, look at who it has served in its recent state (or who hasn't noticed). The Walters study duplicated an earlier study, Elway in 1997, by conducting a phone survey with 400 community residents. Both studies found that 25% of the citizenry are distrustful of the police and don't want to report misconduct directly to the police department. The current system has the police investigating complaints against themselves rather than by an independent investigator.

So there is one-fourth of a citizenry fearful of the police. In the earlier Elway study, we know nothing more of these people. However, in the Walters study (not printed, but mentioned) the fearful group is primarily young, disportionately poorer and disportionately people of color. Finally, some truth leaks out — that the police accountability system effectively serves middle/upper class, older white citizens. Also coincidentally, a Washington State Patrol released a study on Racial Profiling that indicated that although race does not seem to be a factor in the initial stop, race is a factor in whom the police choose to search and arrest.

There is a problem with some folks not served by the system, undisputable now. Are these people that make up the 25% disposable — should anything be done about them or should we just regard them as a legitimate disenfranchised group and accept it?

An appropriate accountability system would treat everyone equally and fairly regardless of race, income or age. It should even reach out to those disenfranchised from the history of police

(Continued page 11)

Equal Benefits Hearing

by The Black Hills Alliance

Please attend the City of Tumwater's public hearing on Tuesday, February 6th to support the proposed Equal Benefits Ordinance at Tumwater City Hall, 555 Israel Rd SE. The Equal Benefits Ordinance is a measure that will require municipal contractors to provide domestic partner benefits to their employees only if they already do so for married families. Such measures have been adopted by the Cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle. A similar proposal is being considered by the City of Olympia.

Everyone is encouraged to call or write the City of Tumwater or attend this public hearing prepared to testify. We are especially seeking out:

*** Tumwater residents**
*** Tumwater business owners**
*** All other local business owners**
*** Civil rights activists**

Talking Points

Testimony should be brief, positive and emphatically in support of this measure. Full copies of the public hearing packet are available.

*** This ordinance will bring the City into compliance with existing non-discrimination laws**

*** This proposed ordinance is not a universal health care measure and does not require contractors to extend health and other benefits to all their employees if such benefits didn't already exist.**

*** Equal pay for equal work. The goal is to treat employees equally in regards to benefits.**

From a civil rights stand point, this is a matter of equal pay for equal work. However, any measure which affects the costs of doing business may be of concern to the business community. This public hearing will draw out many diverse opinions on the proposed ordinance — please lend your voice as a supporter!

The health of the Business Community is critical to the vibrancy of our community here in Tumwater and Olympia. And the state of civil rights is an essential part of our community's character. It is our hope that both interests will complement each other in making this new step towards a society based on the equality of all of its citizens.

For more information on the ordinance call Anna at 943-7469 or Tumwater staff person Donna Skaggs at 754-4124.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Renee Cruickshank	Tara Perkins
Megan Davis	Jeff Sowers
Carter Hick	Sylvia Smith
Frank Hoffman	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Alice Zillah

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Letters, briefs, etc.

Public Property

The City of Olympia is currently negotiating its cable franchise agreement with AT&T. A cable franchise agreement is between a cable operator (AT&T) and a local government (Olympia). Such an agreement exists because the operator places cable lines on public property (along streets) which is controlled by local governments. In exchange for using public property, the operator agrees to provide certain services to the community under certain conditions. These services can include quality controls, channel distribution, types of programming and Public Access Television. Lacey, Tumwater and the County have separate agreements with AT&T.

In its first contract the city included language that would create additional cable packages — free public channels for all citizens and a Lifeline tier for low-income people made up of the public channels and local broadcasters. The public channels include 3, 22,23,24,25 and 26 (TCTV,TVW,CSPAN. . .) and the local ones are 4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12 and 13 (ABC,CBS, NBC,UPN,FOX. . .). Currently, in order to view any cable channels, public or private is subject to a corporate fee — an often prohibitive monthly subscriber/hook-up rate. Activists equate this fee as an economic barrier like an illegal poll tax on civil rights that only benefits a large corporation while disenfranchising the populace by keeping them from viewing their government and community in action.

The renewal process is now awaiting AT&T to return the city's contract and since this is the first round, AT&T may try to dismiss these options in the negotiation process. The city's commitment to stand-up for these items and to make public property truly accessible may depend on whether or not citizens support them. The City of Olympia will be having a public hearing on the renewal process as early as February 20th — depending on when AT&T returns the contract. If you think the public has a right to freely view public channels, then let the city know. Contact Pat at 705-2726 for more info or to get involved.

A DRAG SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

a benefit for Stonewall Youth
FEB 10TH @ 8PM
The Capitol Theatre in Oly

*youth / student types- pay what you can
*"adults"- suggested $10.00 donation
*yummy door prizes

This is the first drag show event that this queer youth center has ever put on, and they've chosen a safe sex theme. The drag king rock-a- billy band THE TEENAGE HODADS and INSPECTOR 23 will also being playing throughout the nite. Special guests: The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the bamboo clan, The wild boys, as well as local favorites!

Thekla is also supporting Stonewall youth by having a "Dine-out at thekla for STonewall youth" all you have to do is eat at thekla anytime from 5:30 - 8 and they're donating 20% to S.Y. Everyone in latex! (optional)

Weekly Vigils

Wednesday Noon-hour Peace Vigil
Sylvester Park (corner of Legion & Capitol Way)
Join us in the middle of town in the

(Continued page 11)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
Friday, Feb. 16th

Proofreading Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 20th
6:30pm at Olympia Timberland Library
Everyone Welcome!

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
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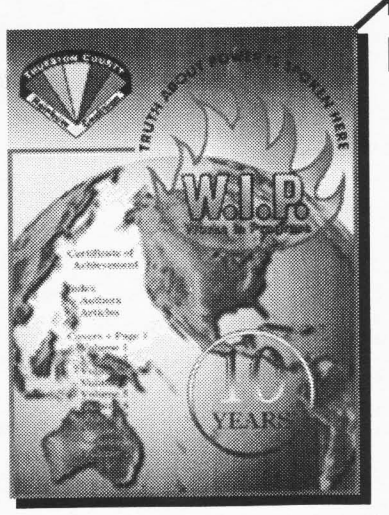
Merchandise:

☐ WIP Flame LogoT-Shirt . . . $15 each; # _____ size(s)_____
☐ WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook of Covers + Page One . . . $15 each
☐ Catalog/Index Listing...$1; back issues...$1/each (while supplies last)



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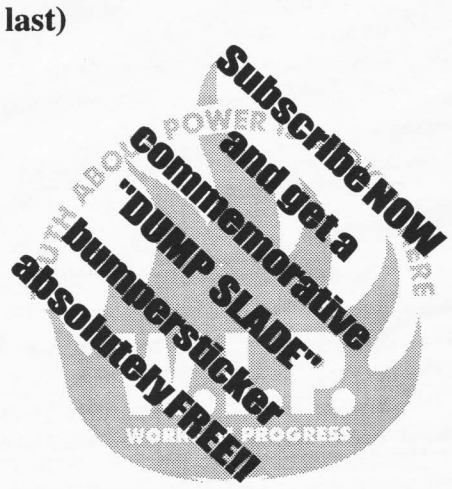


FEBRUARY 2001

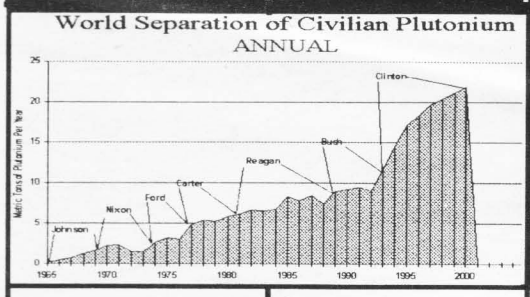
U-236 in Depleted Uranium Munitions

- Last month on the battlefields of Kosovo, a United Nations mission found slightly higher amounts of Beta–radiation immediately at or around the holes left by depleted uranium ammunition, and pieces and remnants of ammunition, such as sabots and penetrators.
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Spiez announced that it found traces of a uranium isotope that suggest radioactive contamination in American-made munitions retrieved by the UN mission.
- Found were trace quantities of uranium isotope 236 . The Swiss laboratory is checking for other possible substances in the spent shells.
- U-236 comes from nuclear fuel that has been recycled. Other contaminants may be present, such as plutonium or americium, which are much more harmful.
- "[Uranium 236] is 10 times more radioactive than depleted uranium, and it acts very quickly... When uranium-tipped munitions explode the high temperatures can turn uranium into tiny droplets or dust particles that can enter the body, where they can remain radioactive for 200 days." Lacronique
- U.S. jets used 31,000 depleted uranium rounds (about 10 tons of the munitions) during the Kosovo war.
- Four other European labs are analyzing samples from Kosovo. Their joint findings on toxic materials in soil, water and spent shells will be published in March.

"The effects of U-236 have not been studied because it was not supposed to be there."

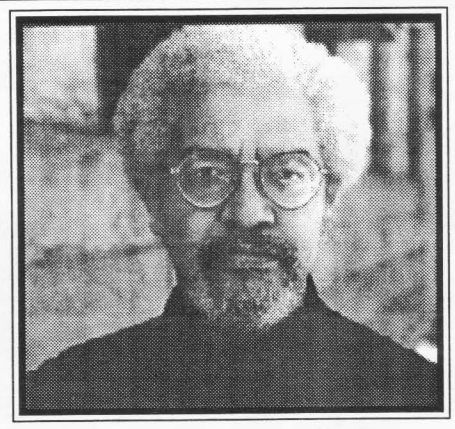
Jean-Francois Lacronique, director of the National Radiation Protection Agency in France

Sources: IHT, Independent, Associated Press, Reuters

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		**"DU is a residue of the refining process which turns uranium ore into fissionable material for use in nuclear weapons. But the depletion that takes place in the refining process removes the U-235 isotopes from the ore and leaves only U-238 which is not radioactive. Thus, DU may be...**		**1** **2000**: WA: US West to improve customer service before state'll approve the company's merger with Qwest Communications Int'l	**2** **1909**: US troops leave Cuba after placing Jose M. Gomez in power **1995**: Boeing will layoff 7,000 Renton Plant workers over next year	**3** **1908**: Supreme Court rules Union-sponsored boycotts illegal **2000**: Gore comes to Olympia; heckled at Garfield Elementary
4 **1998**: Bill Gates gets a cream pie in the face **2000**: Supreme Court grants a stay of execution to Robert Lee Tarver J, in Alabama	**5** **1999**: Makah return The Zodiac to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society; it was seized Nov1 in confrontation over hunting whales	**6** **2000**: New FDA rule claims morning sickness is not a sickness **2000**: Hillary Clinton announces her senate bid in New York State	**7** **2000**: 60 peaceful demostrators march outside Microsoft headquarters watched by two dozen police in riot gear	**8** **2000**: Forest Glen bldg condemned due to rot, mold, carpenter ants and water damage **2000**: Bush wins Delaware primary	**9** **1999**: Miller Brewing Co announces it will buy the Olympia Brewery from Pabst **2000**: 17,000 Boeing workers go on strike	**10** **2000**: Third sentencing trial begins for Mitchell Rupe **2000**: Steve Forbes drops out of GOP presidential race
11 **1998** : Judge rules that disabled professional golfer Casey Martin has the right to ride his cart during the PGA tour	**12** **1997:** Olympia City Council Committee supports ban on downtown sidewalk sitting **2000**: Cartoonist Charles Shultz dies	**13** **1997**: Canadian study claims cellular phone use while driving quadruples risk of having an accident; dangerous as driving drunk	**14** **1999**: Fed study reveals Native Americans are twice as likely to be victims of violent crime ; 70% of offender are non-Natives	**15** **1999**: Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan was taken from a Greek Embassy in Kenya to be sent to Turkey for arrest	**16** **1999**: Outraged by the arrest of their leader Abdullah Ocalan, Kurds seize Greek embassies across Europe, in BC and Sydney, Aus	**17** **1999**: Israeli security guards at the Israeli Embassy in Berlin open fire on Kurdish demonstrators killing three and wounding 16
18 **1999**: Clinton warns Serbia to choose peace **2000**: Betty Lou Beets asks Bush for mercy; she is scheduled for execution February 24	**19** **1999**: Carlyon Beach homes begin slide **1999**: 1998 trade deficit at $168.8 billion **2000**: Bush wins primary in S Carolina	**20** **1999**: NATO Yugoslavia peace talks passes deadline; NATO extended deadline to the 23rd; punitive air strikes threatened	**21** **1885**: Congress forbids contracting abroad for immigrant labor in return for passage costs **2000**: Nader enters run for presidency	**22** **1999**: Thurston Co. Commissioners declare Carlyon landside a local emergency **2000**: McCain wins Michigan and Arizona	**23** **1995** - The Dow Jones breaks 4,000 **1996** - Judge McPhee rejects arguments against state financing of the Mariner stadium	**24** **1999**: US Senate votes to boost benefits, pay of active-duty military **2000**: Texas executes grandmother Betty Lou Beets
25 **1999**: Carlyon Beach homes declared unsafe **2000**: NY police declared not guilty in killing unarmed African immigrant A Diallo	**26** **1965**: AL: Jimmie Lee Jackson died of injuries inflicted by police **2000**: NYC: s protest acquittal of white officers in Diallo case	**27** **1933**: Hitler torches Reichstag in Berlin; blames Communists **1939**: Supreme Court rules sit-down strikes unconstitutional	**28** **1965**: Defence Secretary McNamara calls for nationwide bomb shelters **1972**: Murder trial of Angela Davis begins	**...processed into extremely dense, heavy ammunition suitable for penetrating tank armor without concern for radioactivity. However, when those shells penetrate the target they burn and form chemical particles which are compounds of uranium - a heavy metal. It is highly likely that if those particles are inhaled or ingested by humans they produce a form of heavy metal poisoning. "** **Center for Defense Information**		

Along the Color Line

The Compromises of 1876 and 2000
Stealing the Election



Dr. Manning Marable

We have just witnessed, in the United States, the massive and wholesale theft of the presidency. Yet the fraudulent political dynamics that propelled loser George W. Bush into the White House have happened before. A political philosopher once observed that history always repeats itself twice—the first time as tragedy, and the second time as farce. The seeds of the current electoral debacle are found in the past.

Back in 1876, the Civil War had been over for only eleven years. Black men had finally won the right to vote, but Southern whites were vigorously attempting to regain their power over their state legislatures. Deep sectional antagonisms still divided the nation, with the industrial and commercial North mostly supporting Republicans, and the White South supporting the Democrats. The Republican presidential candidate in 1876 was Rutherford B. Hayes, the governor of Ohio. Hayes was widely viewed as being handicapped by the governmental scandals and corruption during the administration of two-term President Ulysses S. Grant.

The Democratic challenger, Governor Samuel J. Tilden of New York, was widely favored to defeat Hayes. In the general election in November 1876, Tilden appeared to be the victor. He carried the national popular vote by 300,000. In the Electoral College, Tilden won 184 votes, to only 165 votes for Hayes, with twenty disputed electoral votes hanging in the balance. If Tilden had received only one of the disputed electoral votes, he would have been declared the winner. Hayes needed to win all 20 disputed electoral votes to become president.

Compounding the national crisis were widespread allegations of voter fraud, especially in Florida. There was evidence of ballot tampering, with hundreds of ballots being destroyed or never counted. The political stalemate over who would become president threatened to plunge the country into a second Civil War. Only several days prior to the date set for the presidential inauguration, a deal was reached between Republicans and Democrats.

The "Compromise" of the election of 1876 actually represented a kind of electoral coup d'etat. The Republican candidate Hayes was selected to become president. The Federal government pulled thousands of Union troops out of the South, where they had been stationed since the fall of the Confederacy more than a decade earlier. The Compromise stated that the principle of states' rights would determine the future legal and political status of African Americans. In the language of that era, the so-called "Negro Question" was to become a "Southern Question." The white South was given a free hand to set the parameters of black freedom.

The consequences of the Compromise of 1876-1877 were profound and long-lasting. A Civil Rights Act which had been passed by Congress in 1875 was repealed in 1883. Jim Crow segregation was soon institutionalized throughout the South. Hundreds of thousands of African American men were purged from voters rolls, or were denied the right to cast ballots by local police intimidation and literacy restrictions. White vigilante violence was widely employed to suppress the black community, as five thousand African Americans were lynched in the South over the next four decades. The Supreme Court confirmed the racist principle of "separate but equal" with its legal decision Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896. It would take nearly a century for black America to recover.

Now consider the political parallels between 1876 and last year's presidential election. Once again, deep sectional and demographic divisions were reflected within the national electorate. The industrial Northeast and Midwest, and the Pacific states were heavily Democratic; the South, West, and rural America were overwhelmingly Republican. Al Gore, the Democratic presidential candidate in 2000, had served nearly his entire adult life as a public official—first as Congressman and Senator from Tennessee, and subsequently as Vice President. He was, however, widely viewed as being handicapped by the scandals connected with the two-term president then in office, Bill Clinton. George W. Bush, the Governor of Texas, was chosen as the Republican presidential candidate, and was largely assumed to be the favorite to win.

In the presidential election of 2000, most exit polls indicated that Gore had won. He carried the national popular vote by nearly one half million votes over Bush. Gore's lead in the Electoral College was 267 to 246 votes, with Florida's 25 electoral votes in dispute.

It was as if two distinctly separate nations had voted in America in November 2000. There was a "gender gap," as Gore received 12 percentage points more from women that male voters. The "racial gap" was even more profound. Ninety percent of all African-American voters supported Gore, versus a meager eight percent endorsing Bush. About two-thirds of all Latinos and the majority of Asian Americans voted for Gore. By contrast, white America clearly saw Bush as its favorite son. Fifty-three percent of all whites supported Bush. More than seventy percent of all Southern whites voted for Bush and religious conservatives endorsed the Republicans by a four to one margin. Neither Gore nor President Clinton, a former Governor from Arkansas, were able to carry their own states.

History has repeated itself, and it is up to us to challenge this "Compromise of 2000," which threatens to usher in a new period of racial inequality.

Just as in the election of 1876, there was evidence of massive voter fraud, especially in Florida. In Florida's Palm Beach County, 19,000 ballots were thrown out. In Duval County, 27,000 ballots were declared void. Over 12,000 of these discounted votes came from only four districts that have over 90 percent African-American voters. In some majority black precincts, over 30 percent of all votes were actually thrown out! Thousands of African Americans who had registered and were legally qualified to vote were not permitted to do so, because they were erroneously listed as having been convicted of a felony. There were dozens of documented cases of blacks going to the polls who were stopped or harassed by local cops.

Over thirty percent of all African-American adult males in Florida are disenfranchised for life, because of the anti-democratic restrictions against ex-felons. Most Florida Republicans would like to restrict the voting rights of the other 70 percent as well. In fact, Florida State House Speaker Tom Feeney, who had insisted that the Republican-controlled legislature should select a Bush slate of Electors no matter who actually won the state's popular vote, also suggested the reinstatement of "literacy tests," the legal tool of segregationists. Feeney stated to reporters: "Voter confusion is not a reason for whining or crying or having a revote. It may be a reason to require literacy tests."

The election of 2000 was decided not by the popular will of voters, but in Washington, D.C., by a narrow five-four conservative majority of Supreme Court justices. Chief Justice William Rehnquist's refusal to acknowledge evidence of blatant voter fraud against African Americans was no surprise. Back in 1962, when Rehnquist was a young attorney in Arizona, he led a group of Republican lawyers who systematically challenged the right of minority voters to cast their ballots in that state. Called "Operation Eagle Eye," Rehnquist successfully disenfranchised hundreds of black and brown voters in Phoenix's poor and working class precincts. In 2000, Rehnquist supervised the disenfranchisement, in effect, of the *majority of American voters.*

Under no conditions can George W. Bush be considered the legitimate president of the United States. The Supreme Court has certified an electoral robbery in Florida. Gore was elected by the plurality of America's voters, but Bush was selected by the courts. As columnist Julianne Malveaux has quipped, perhaps instead of saying "Hail to the Chief," we should salute the faux President with "Hail to the Thief." History has repeated itself, and it is up to us to challenge this "Compromise of 2000," which threatens to usher in a new period of racial inequality.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University. ◆

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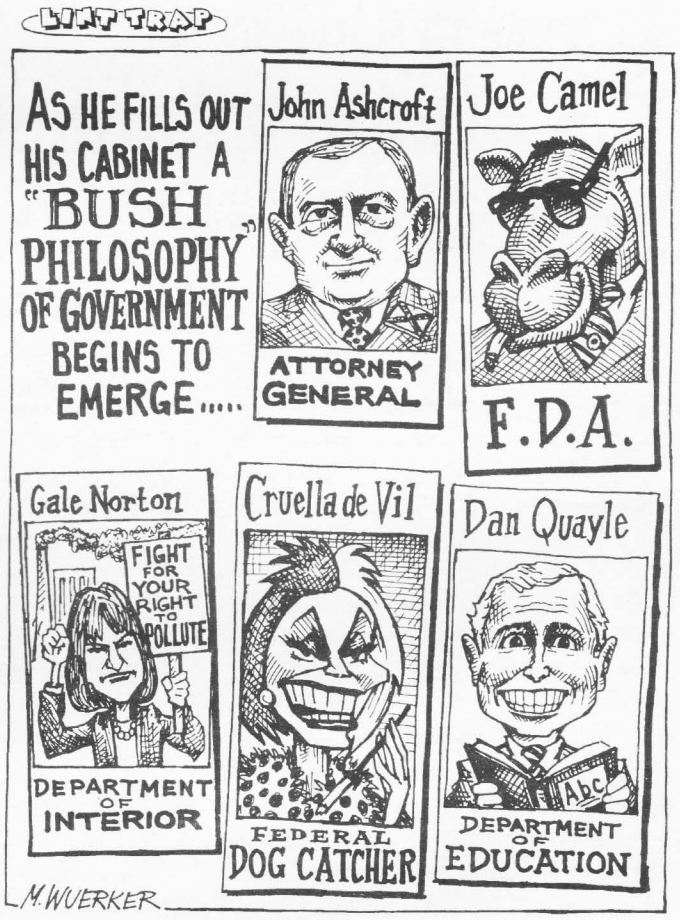
Up Front

The Bush "Payback" Nominee



Jerome Johnson

Last week I watched John Ashcroft testifying to his old friends, the Senate Judiciary Committee, on his nomination to Attorney General. I was expecting a stellar performance at a riveting hearing, and I wasn't disappointed. What did surprise me was the disingenous way Ashcroft handled the tough questions on women's rights, civil rights, gun laws and affirmative action, among other things. I thought Ashcroft would present a vigorous defense of his beliefs, his agenda as AG, and how that dovetailed with visions of Dubya's America. He'd tell the truth—he's a proud law-and-order archconservative who despises legal safeguards against discrimination and oppression, and he'd work to change them as much as possible as soon as possible. I expected the very real fears of women for their health and safety to be answered with Bible verses and lectures on abstinence. In short, I thought he'd air the strong reactionary views he's held and espoused for a quarter century, tie them into his agenda as AG, and tell the rest of us to just suck up and deal with it—accompanied by the knowing smirk we see on the covers of "time" and "Newsweek".

Well, imagine my surprise when the mike opened and the New John began to answer questions. Gone was the Knight of the Right, and in his place was a humble, soft-spoken Compassionate Conservative who politely disagreed with civil rights, women's rights but solemnly pledged to protect them to the fullest, because these rights and safeguards are "Settled Law", and he wouldn't "place myself or my beliefs above the law." Ashcroft faced the following questions head-on:

* The Brady Law/Assault weapons ban: No problem, Ashcroft said. Not only did he agree with them, he testified that he'd recommend to Dubya that they be renewed. When confronted by his long years of rabid gun fever and opposition to gun control, he shrugged it off by saying, "As AG I will of course uphold the law..."

* Gay rights: He disagreed with the "gay lifestyle," but would enforce existing laws against violence. When reminded of his long opposition to hate crime law, he pointed out that he'd signed a hate-crime law in Missouri and that his views wouldn't prevent him from enforcing Settled Law.

* Women's rights: No need to worry here. While admitting to his strong beliefs against abortion, Ashcroft was most reassuring. He again said that because Roe v. Wade is Settled Law, he wouldn't oppose it. He repeated that his strong beliefs would not prevent him from enforcing it—and even though he didn't say it outright, you could hear him add "that is, until Rehnquist and/or O'Connor retire and Dubya appoints archconservatives who will overturn Roe." And when asked how he would react when women's clinics are attacked, Ashcroft put on his Most Sincerely Caring look and solemnly told the Committee that he'd prosecute crminals to the utmost.

* Civil Rights: Again, the most profound reassurances—despite his heinous record of opposing affirmative action and desegregation. Again he fell back on his stock answer: He'd uphold Settled Law, no matter how much he disapproves of it. On the issue of his opposition to Judge White, Ashcroft downplayed it based on White's record. He waved away concerns about his racism (in the commitee it was tactfully called "insensitivity")by repeating his smooth assurances that everything will be all right, he's a mature adult in an important job and wouldn't allow his beliefs to interfere with upholding the law. With the smirk, it was even more sickening to watch.

And I think that's really the crux of my deep repugnance for Ashcroft. A savvy politician—a veteran of the Judiciary Committee—he knew that if he was honest about his extreme views his already jeopardized confirmation would be sunk by public opinion. So, in Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy(D-VT)words, Ashcroft made a "breathtaking" change. As Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) noted, "I don't know what to believe—your statements and record over the past 25 years, or your testimony before this committee today."

Well, I don't think Ashcroft has changed at all, and I know precisely what to believe. I believe that Ashcroft is the same old reactionary that he's always been, and his sugary testimony was nothing but political theater to secure his job as AG. I believe that Ashcroft remains an arch-enemy of gay rights, women's rights and everyone's civil rights, and will do his utmost to destroy them. I believe that Ashcroft will do everything in his power to overturn Roe v. Wade—in fact, I wouldn't be at all surprised if Dubya nominates Ashcroft to the Supreme Court or a federal bench. And I believe that Ashcroft will vigorously prosecute nonviolent, poor, non-white offenders, while allowing major corporate officials to plunder shareholders, companies to pollute recklessly and business to run roughshod over their workers, their customers and the environment. I believe that when Ashcroft is sworn in, J. Edgar Hoover will celebrate from his villa in Hell.

I believe that Ashcroft is the same old reactionary that he's always been, and his sugary testimony was nothing but political theater to secure his job as AG.

A lot of people are asking why Dubya nominated Ashcroft, who's provoked nothing but controversy, fear and angst. As far as I'm concerned, it's a simple answer: Ashcroft is an archconservative, and appointing him attorney general is the first installment—the down payment, so to speak—on the enormous political debt Dubya owes the Religious/Far Right. They made a deal during the campaign—they knew that if Dubya openly embraced their extreme agenda, they'd lose in a landslide to Gore, so with great reluctance the Religious/Far Right compromised. In exchange for their quiescience, they expect Dubya to strongly pursue their agenda. Not only in the Government by appointing archconservatives to important positions—like attorney general, surgeon general, the Supreme Court and federal benches—but also in Congress and through executive orders. Ashcroft is just the beginning of Dubya paying back his archconservative friends, and they're watching warily to make sure Dubya stays more conservative than compassionate. The tragedy is, it won't really be Dubya who pays a heavy price—it will be us, the people, who realized this and did our best to prevent it. As it is, we'll be doing our best to survive it.

In the Congo, Laurent Kabila embarks on his last journey.

In the Philippines, Pres. Estrada narrowly escapes impeachment.

In Washington DC, the indomitable Maxine Waters led the Congressional Black Caucus to challenge Dubya's selection—without the support of cowardly Democratic Senators.

And in Olympia, the TESC Police proudly flex their muscles—under the ubiquitous eye of CopWatch. ◆

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Another El Salvador

U.S. Aid to Columbia

David Zink

On August 30, Bill Clinton and other top officials made a one-day trip to the coastal city of Cartagena, Colombia to announce the U.S. government's initial payment of $1.3 billion to a military aid package to that nation. The purpose of the aid is for a major buildup of the Colombian Army, for U.S. military advisors to train and supervise three counterinsurgency battalions, and for delivery of 60 high-tech Black Hawk and Huey-2 helicopters.

The U.S. war planners are preparing a massive intervention in Colombia. They say that the operations in Colombia will follow the "El Salvador model", expanding the force of U.S. trainers, adviser/commanders, CIA agents, and spy planes, and that no direct intervention by U.S. ground troops is planned. The U.S. point man in Colombia will be General Keith Huber, "a 25-year career officer with a background in Special Forces and experience in counterinsurgency, including a stint in El Salvador."

Colombia is a fertile country that once produced enough food for its people. But much of the country's traditional domestic agriculture has been ruined by increasing dependence upon foreign trade. Growing numbers of peasants have been forced off the land and into crowded cities, resulting in mass displacement , misery, and hunger. Those remaining on the land must produce cash crops for export, putting their livelihoods at the mercy of world prices. Increasingly, the only cash crop that can produce a living for the impoverished farmers is coca for the world cocaine market. For .these people, corporate globalism is a disaster.

In an article he wrote for the *Manchester Guardian*, John Pilger says: "Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, almost half the gross domestic product of Colombia goes to paying off debt. In an effort to raise money, the Pastrani government is selling off public assets, from telecommunications to the water supply system, at well under their true value, but at too high a price for domestic capital. The beneficiaries are, as ever, U.S. and multinational corporations."

Tad Szulc, in an article published in the *Los Angeles Times* titled "The Ghost of Viet Nam Haunts 'Plan Colombia' ", says that the plan ." . . is the result of the administration's festering frustration over its continuing inability to stem the huge flow of cocaine and heroin produced in Colombia, notwithstanding billions of dollars spent over the years on interdiction and for what passes for cooperation with Colombian authorities. The plan was developed by people who know little of the country's history, culture and politics." The U.S. government appears to be unaware that the major drug lords are part of the ruling elite in Colombia.

Hardly a day passes in Colombia without dozens of people being slaughtered. This is another aspect of the "El Salvador model."

"President Clinton called Colombia a "national security priority." The U.S. escalation in Colombia is being carried out in the name of the "War on Drugs." The goal is advertised as the elimination of coca fields, but, as the *New York Times* said in an article on August 30, "It is unrealistic to imagine that the $1.3 billion will not also be used against the guerillas."

The largest armed insurgent outfit on the Colombian Left is the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), with an estimated 15,000 troops. The ELN (National Liberation Army) has around 5,000 fighters.

As part of the "War on Drugs", Colombian forces have been spraying the peasant's fields with herbicides - chemical plant killers. These chemicals cannot distinguish between coca and other crops the people need for subsistence such as pineapples, yucca, rice, plantains, and maize. Esteban Torres, a teacher in Putumayo, Colombia, says that the chemicals dumped on the fields are damaging the inhabitants. "There is no running water in Puerto Guzman (a rural village). The people drink the water from the streams which pass alongside the fields, prepare their food with it, and are falling sick."

A joint statement prepared by over 60 different non-governmental indigenous, women's, judicial, human rights, trade unions, farming cooperatives, environmental groups, and university and secondary school student organizations said that Plan Colombia "will lead to the escalation of the social and armed conflict in the country. It attacks the indigenous populations by destroying their culture and will seriously affect the Amazon ecosystem."

Plan Colombia means spraying the Colombian countryside (the headwaters of the Amazon River) with an herbicide having Agent Orange effects. It means the displacement of the U'wa people, and the cleansing of Colombian society of trade unionists, campesino leaders, progressive politicians, and the liberation church. It is a war on the Colombian people.

"Plan Colombia is the same policy," says Amnesty International, "that backed death squads in El Salvador in the 1980s."

The Colombian Army is a notoriously corrupt, brutal, and widely hated organization. An August 22 CNN report noted that hundreds of Colombian soldiers are suspected of human rights violations. Aside from carrying out violence directly against the people, the official armed forces in Colombia also have ties with right-wing paramilitary groups. Often working for big landlords, these paramilitaries carry out assassinations of activists and massacres of ordinary peasants suspected of being leftist sympathizers. Hardly a day passes in Colombia without dozens of people being slaughtered. This is another aspect of the "El Salvador model."

A bloody example of a typical paramilitary action was the massacre of over 70 people at the village of El Salado. More than 300 members of a right-wing group took over the village and, for three days, tortured and murdered people accused of helping the FARC. Colombian army units stationed just outside of El Salado knew what was going on, and set up a roadblock to prevent people from going to the village to rescue the residents. The organization Human Rights Watch has documented ties between half of the Colombian Army's 18 brigades and right-wing paramilitary units. A Human Rights Watch report says that army officers who planned and took part in paramilitary violence "have been promoted and rewarded and now occupy the highest positions in the Colombian military." Colombia has more officers trained at the School of the Americas (also known as the "School of Assassins") than any other country's armed forces.

Within Colombia, according to a top U.S. State Department official, refugees from the violence are being moved into "places where they can live safely with government support." This sounds suspiciously like the "strategic hamlets" that the U.S. built during the war in Viet Nam to force people into areas where they could be surrounded, controlled, and prevented from aiding the rebel forces.

Colombia is extremely polarized along class and racial lines. Most people in the U.S.A. aren't aware that Colombia has been in what amounts to a state of civil war since the 1950s. It has been largely a war by the owning class against the poor and the progressive sectors in Colombian society. Spending billions of dollars in military aid which President Clinton pushed through, and which President Bush no doubt will be happy to continue, ratchets up the conflict. Most people in the U.S.A. have no idea what is happening with our tax money, that this threatens to suck us. into a bloody and brutal civil war. Like the war in Viet Nam, the government has chosen not to explain the roots of this conflict to the public who is expected to pay for it. Instead, it is attempting to sell its efforts to maintain U.S. domination of Colombia and Latin America as a Holy War on Drugs. Perhaps the American people will only learn the true nature of this war when we are, once again, "Knee-deep in the Big Muddy". ◆

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Nuclear Submarine Base

Anti-Nuke Protesters Arrested at Bangor

Mac Lojowsky

At approximately 2:30 p.m., on Monday, January 15, 2001, twenty activists from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action were arrested for blocking the entrance road to Sub Base Bangor, in Kitsap County, Washington. In solidarity with actions at other Trident- related facilities around the country, the fifteen women and five men arrested, as well as fifty other Ground Zero activists, were observing Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday by protesting the "upgrade" of Trident missiles.

What's at Sub Base Bangor?

Sub Base Bangor is the home port of eight Trident nuclear submarines, which harbors a total of 1,600 nuclear warheads. Each Trident submarine carries 24 missiles with a total of 192 nuclear warheads (other warheads are in "storage" at the base). Each of the Trident nuclear warheads has a destructive capability of 100 kilotons- about eight times as much as the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, which killed 150,000 people. Glen Milner, a Seattle electrician and Ground Zero activist since the 1980's explains, "Trident is basically the end of the world- meaning, if it's used, we're all finished."

According to the Ground Zero Center, "If Kitsap County were its own country, it would be the world's 3rd largest nuclear weapons power." Along with ten other Trident subs at Sub Base King's Bay in Georgia, Sub Base Bangor makes up 48% of the United State's operational nuclear force.

Currently, the eight older subs at Bangor carry the Trident-I (C-4) missiles, and the base is equipped to handle and service only these missiles. One of these subs, the *USS Alaska* is now undergoing the D-5 upgrade at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

The D-5 Upgrade

To reduce the number of U.S. nuclear warheads under agreements of the START II Treaty, four subs at Bangor will be backfitted with the D-5 missile, while the four oldest Trident subs (at Bangor) will probably be converted to carry the (non-nuclear) Tomahawk cruise missile.

Research from Glen Milner and Stephen Kobasa explains "The Trident D-5 missile has a range of approximately 6000 miles versus 4500 for the C-4. The eight nuclear warheads on each of the D-5 missile are accurate within 150 yards of their targets versus 300 yards for the C-4. Both are considered to have a destabilizing first strike capability. (*Seattle Times*, January 2000)."

Jackie Hudson of Ground Zero agrees, "The only need for either C-4 or D-5 missiles is for first strike attacks."

Although the number of nuclear warhead carrying submarines will be reduced, the killing capacity on the remaining four Trident subs will be dramatically increased by "backfitting" the subs to carry the Trident-II (D-5) missiles. Basically, the upgrade at Bangor is an upgrade in mass-death capacity. The Trident-I (C-4) missile has a 100-kiloton capacity, while the Trident-II (D-5) missile has a 475-kiloton capacity.

In this protest, we put our bodies in the road at Bangor to close the ultimate death machine of the US arsenal."

And just because four subs may carry Tomahawks instead of Tridents, the possible death count is still not diminished. The Trident Resistance Network explains, "The use of conventional Tomahawks during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, against Iraqi facilities in 1993 and 1996, their use in Bosnia during 1995, their use against reportedly terrorist targets in 1998, their use against Iran in 1998, and their use against Yugoslavia in 1999 indicate their growing popularity with military planners (factsheet: "Trident and Cruise Missiles")."

Economics

Jeff Shaw, in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* states that "Each Trident-II (D-5) missile costs $40.9 million, and the Navy plans to purchase 106 of them by the end of 2005 for $4.3 billion." Former Trident missile designer, Bob Aldridge of the Pacific Life Research Center has found, "In early February 1999, General Dynamics Defense Systems (Pittsfield, MA) was awarded a $10,455,868 three-year contract to provide development and production equipment for the backfit. This could stretch to almost $44 million if all options are exercised." Aldridge also states, the cost savings of canceling the D-5 backfit and decommissioning all eight subs at Bangor "totals over $10 billion."

For the fiscal year 2000 budget, Congress approved $28 million for new D-5 facilities at Bangor. This means new buildings for storage and training, a new wharf area to handle the D-5 missiles, new cranes, new train tracks, and a host of other "developments" have already begun at Sub Base Bangor.

January 15, 2001

Martin Luther King Jr. stated "When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

At 1:00 p.m., after a morning discussing nonviolence and the implications of the Trident missiles, a procession left the Ground Zero center and marched to the entrance of Sub Base Bangor. Various quotes of Dr. King were read, and speeches were given by longtime activist and co-founder of Ground Zero Jim Douglass and Andreas Toupadakis. Toupadakis, a former nuclear weapons scientist from the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, resigned for reasons of conscience in early 2000. "Science," Toupadakis said, "which ought always to be aiming at the good of humanity, is assisting in the work of destruction, and is constantly inventing new means for killing the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time."

Strings of hand-folded paper cranes, made by students from the Soviet Unions Cold War nuclear testing grounds in Uzbekistan, were draped on the base's fence as a gift of peace. Seattle's King 5 News cameras showed up long enough to get a few moments of footage, but left before the nonviolent acts of civil disobedience took place.

Around 2:30 p.m., six activists held a banner reading "Bangor Closed- Trident Violates International Law" across the county side of the entrance road, effectively blocking incoming traffic for twenty minutes. Milner, one of the six, said, "We are all responsible (for the Bangor Base) because we all support it through our government. As a citizen in a democratic society, I feel responsible for the base, and that's why I want to stop it."

About twenty Kitsap County Sheriff's Deputies soon arrived and arrested all seven. Then, five more activists crossed the "blue line" onto Federal property, blocked the road, and were promptly arrested. Finally, nine more activists marched onto the county side of the road and were arrested as well. The ages of the arrested ranged from 15 to 78. The five who crossed the "blue line" were held on base, and issued lifetime ban and bar letters, forever prohibiting their presence on the base.

The other fifteen were taken to the Kitsap County Jail, fingerprinted, photographed, placed in holding cells for five hours, and then released. The one juvenile was separated from the rest of the group, taken to Juvenile Detention, and placed in a cell amongst the general convicted juvenile population. He was released after a few hours into his parent's custody. No charges have yet been filed on any of the arrested.

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Prior to the action, Washington Governor Gary Locke suggested that "Each of us can commemorate this day by putting Dr. King's philosophy into action."

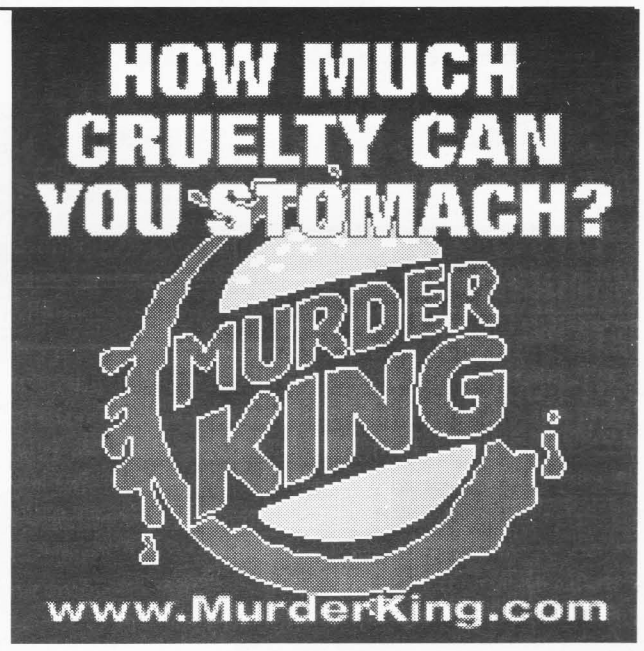
Jackie Hudson, one of the arrested, said that the demonstration honored the philosophy of Dr. King. "We did this on Martin Luther King Jr. Day primarily because his birthday has been so watered down. Civil rights still has so far to go. Racism is still rampant. His stance against militarism is almost never mentioned, seldom celebrated, and never taught in schools. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that by putting your body where your words are will effect change. In this protest, we put our bodies in the road at Bangor to close the ultimate death machine of the US arsenal."

To find out more about Trident, Sub Base Bangor, nuclear issues and future actions, visit the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action's website at : www.gzcenter.org, or call them at 360-377-2586. ◆

"When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men"

"Bangor Closed -- Trident Violates International Law"

PETA Launches Campaign Against Inhumane Burger King



Abby Lane

About PETA

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)), with more than seven hundred thousand members, is the largest animal rights organization in the world. Founded in 1980, PETA is dedicated to establishing and protecting the rights of all animals. PETA operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment. PETA focuses its attention on the four areas in which the largest numbers of animals suffer the most intensely for the longest periods of time: on factory farms, in laboratories, in the fur trade, and in the entertainment industry. They also work on a variety of other issues, including the cruel killing of beavers, birds and other "pests," and the abuse of backyard dogs. PETA works through public education, cruelty investigations, research, animal rescue, legislation, special events, celebrity involvement, and direct action.

McDonald's Makes Concessions

Their new campaign, Murder King, is directed towards Burger King Corporation. They recently made a huge achievement with their campaign against McDonald's which included over 400 demonstrations in 23 countries. McDonald's agreed to make many changes, definitely for the better. McDonald's has agreed to make major improvements in the lives of chickens used for its restaurants, improvements that have lead to the chicken industry openly condemning McDonald's and publicly fuming at them. McDonald's will be increasing cage size, eliminating "debeaking" and prohibiting "forced molting." For the first time in history, McDonald's has actually cut off suppliers not in compliance with humane slaughter guidelines. This was an amazing achievement, as McDonald's is a very large corporation.

You can join the "Sponsor a Burger King" campaign at www.murderking.com

Murder King

After three months of attempted negotiating, PETA has now chosen Burger King for it's new all-out campaign. Among Burger King's many inhumane practices, some of the worst are slitting the throats of conscious animals, skinning and dismembering conscious animals, keeping hens in cages so small they are unable to spread a wing, genetically breeding chickens so that they grow so large so fast they are unable to support their own weight, and confining breeding pigs to small concrete stalls for the majority of their lives. PETA would like Burger King to:

*Require slaughter houses to fully stun all animals before they are killed
*Make sure all slaughter houses are subject to unannounced audits by a qualified animal-handling expert such as McDonald's inspector Dr. Temple Grandin
*Require suppliers to humanely kill any animal that arrives at the slaughter house unable to walk, with broken limbs, or in severe pain
*Stop buying eggs from suppliers that give hens less than 72 square inches of space per bird, and phase out purchases from suppliers that raise hens in "battery" cages
*Stop buying eggs from suppliers that withhold food and water in order to increase egg production
*Buy chickens who are truly raised free roaming only
*Buy chicken flesh and eggs only from suppliers that do not debeak chickens
*Institute humane guidelines for catching chickens
*Require suppliers to stop breeding broiler chickens for weight
*Phase out buying from farms that confine sows to stalls

That is what Burger King needs to do to reduce animal suffering. Those steps are all achievable, and hopefully Burger King will see that.

Learn More/Take Action

Learn more about PETA at:
www.peta.com
Learn more about McDonalds at:
www.peta.com
www.McCruelty.com
Learn more about Burger King at:
www.peta.com
www.murderking.com

You are strongly encouraged to do the following:

Write to the interim CEO of Burger King Corp. asking him to agree to PETA's requests at:

Mr. Colin Storm, Interim CEO
Burger King Corp.
17777 Old Cutler Rd.
Miami FL 33157
Tel: 305-378-7011
Fax: 305-378-7262

Send a copy of the letter to:

Ms. Mikel Durham
President, Burger King North America
Same Address as above

Write a letter to and call Burger Kings Franchisee association, letting them know they should take a stand:

Frank Capaldo
Executive Director, National franchisee association
3901 Roswell Rd. N.E., Ste. 208
Marietta, GA 30062
Tel: 770-971-0808
Fax: 770-971-3799

Send a copy of that letter to:

Mr. Steve Lewis
President, National Franchisee association (Same address as above)

Letters are great and very much appreciated but PETA needs as many people as possible to pass out leaflets and hold demonstrations at Burger King restaurants. You can join the "Sponsor a Burger King" campaign at www.murderking.com, this would include leafleting or protesting at a Burger King near you on a monthly (or more often) basis. PETA will supply you with leaflets, posters, stickers, etc.

Related Websites:

www.milksucks.com
www.goveg.com
www.peta-online.org ◆

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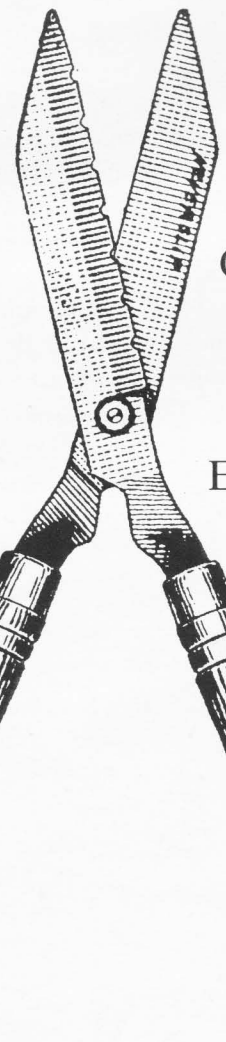

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The Idea of Private Property

Frank Hoffman

The idea of private property seems to be a basic value in our society, perhaps in the Western culture. What is mine is mine, and if I chose to share some of what is mine, the choice rests with me and not the government or any other person. It is mine because I have earned it or taken it and have control of it: it is in my possession.

This is what they say we fought King George about -- No taxation without representation! You cannot rightfully take what is rightfully mine. It is not fair to do that, even if you have the physical ability to do that because you have control of an army or you have some other superiority of force, whether it's muscle or technological, like a weapon.

We have mechanisms for giving consent about the taking of what is mine. The major ones I can think of are part of representative government. I have the ability to vote for a representative who will be involved in the decisions about what can be taken from me, whether in taxes or in a drug raid.

Women and children had no legal rights in the Greek City States, where many of our ideas and values about politics and freedom originated. They were considered the property of the male head of the household, who could do with them as he pleased -- this included murder. What happened behind the front door was the province of the patriarch, the state had no legal power or authority to intervene on behalf of household members.

Such stark ideas about private property are still with us in the United States 2500 years later. They help explain much of the inequality in our society. Women and children, in particular, suffer because of these values and ideas that seem to rise out of ancient concepts about private property and definitions of "rightful" owners. Within this value set, owners -- who are in fact usually whiter men -- are of more value than slaves or women and children. Some men seem to act out of these basic beliefs most of the time, regardless of what they might say about political freedom and rights.

Should we the people continue to define "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as owning things and controling other people? s

What if the basic ideas and concepts were reversed? What if there were no such thing as private property? What if no one could own anything? George Washington couldn't "own" a plantation. Thomas Jefferson could not own slaves.

The idea seems to have been that a person has a right to the product of his efforts. You can't go over and harvest the crops that George planted.

Except that George didn't do the planting, did he, somebody else did. And what about the work of the women, raising the children, making the meals - how are they (excuse me, were they) paid for their work?

The ideas talked about today relating to taxes assume that private property is a natural right, the individual owner has the ultimate societal and political authority and value -- not the people in common, not the society in general.

Political bodies, legislatures and Congress, must get permission from each citizen before the government can take any of their earnings. That's what some political people are saying in Washington State and around the country in defense of their efforts to cut and limit taxes. They want to keep what they see as theirs.

This is not really a question of capitalism or socialism, is it? It's a whole different collection of values I'm talking about. Is it possible to be free if you are bound, chained, to what you own, as a weight you carry with you all the time. Are you free if you are owned, by a job or debt or fear of being free?

Should we the people continue to define "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as owning things and controling other people? The idea of private property is one of those ideas and concepts that we are told is basic to our way of life and is immutable, like the teacher said about basic metals in high school chemistry class. They cannot be reduced or taken apart because they are that basic and fundamental. Nonsense!

The idea of private property may no longer be relevant. Control and possession promote social disaster. The only question is when the disaster will occur. ◆

Poetic Terrorism

by Lynx D. Zire

To all the "activists":

There is no time left for standing around, talking to each other about revolution. If that is all you do and you think you are doing your part, then think again. I have a few questions: What is "doing your part" a part of? A global movement for justice? The anti-globalization movement? A rising anarchist rebellion? Do you think that revolution can come through any sort of mass arrest? Coalition building? In my view the real change this society needs is a creative change at the scale of the individual. If we become aware of our free will and autonomy, we can realize our underlying desires, and work from a theory rooted in our own struggle to understand ourselves. Anything other than this, any "resistance" has been built into the current structure, ready to co-opt the idea of struggle.

Which brings me to another question:

Which is really more sacred: a title/deed of private property, or the all-important media spectacle? Why is it so important to have a mirror to legitimize what we do? A self-imposed judge of acceptible tactics.

We live in a wash of media, with important events, protests, and guerrilla warfare going on every day. With so much, it is easy to be swamped in bad news and overloaded with propaganda, which are two reasons to get together and quietly talk with your closest friends about ways to creatively undermine the current structure. Why sit around getting depressed and dreaming of utopia when you could be creating it here, now!

It's amazing how exciting a little Poetic Terrorism can be. Whether it's throwing money to the floor of the stock market, a billboard liberation, a computer virus or a bank robbery, anything that laughs at the vile absurdity of this society is welcome.

As for myself, I am thinking of years down the road, when young kids ask me Why we didn't blow up all the dams BEFORE all the salmon were gone, and I want to be able to say that people died trying, and took a lot of the bastards out with them.

ps. responses are encouraged

<slacktivist@hotmail.com>

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BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!
SEE PAGE 2

WELCOME TO THE GREAT BOYCOTT!

Networking with people all over the world, we are mounting a long-term publicity campaign to isolate the major criminal poisoners of the planet, so that no one wants to do business with them.

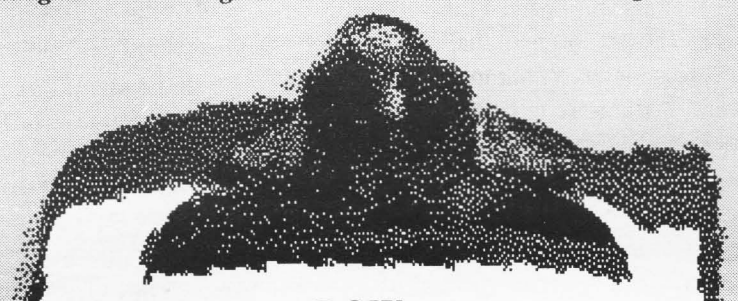
We are boycotting the products and the investment stock of the eight biggest pesticide companies on earth: Dow, Du Pont, Monsanto, Imperial Chemical Industries (England), Rhone Poulenc (France), Ciba-Geigy (Switzerland), Bayer and Hoechst (Germany).

All of these companies are forwarding genetic engineering of our food crops. Purpose? To create crops that will withstand much greater levels of sprayed toxic herbicides. Profits soar. People and soil are poisoned. This is real.

These eight chemical giants are toxifyhing the planet in so many other ways as well: through their billions of pounds of industrial wastes, adverse-effect pharmaceuticals, chlorine-based products.

This must stop.

Below is a list of products to boycott for the big three companies in the U.S. We are asking our friends in Europe to fill in information on the other five chemical giants. This is a global effort. We are in it for the long haul.



DOW

Styrofoam labeled plastic products; Starane, Spike, Verdict, Trefflan (herbicides); Dursban (insecticide); Nicorette, Norhistamine, Cepacol, Gly-oxide, Gaviscon, Cepastat, Citrucel, Delbrox, Os-Cal (over-the-counter preparations); Ziploc bags, Fantastik cleaner, Handi-Wrap, Saran Wrap, Spray 'N Wash, Dow Bathroom Cleaner, Glass Plus Multisurface cleaner, Smart Scrub, Ultra Yes laundry detergent, Vivid Bleach, Style and Permasoft hair products.

DU PONT

Comforel pillows, comforters and mattress pads; the fibers Lycra, Dacron, Nomex, Tyvek, Antron, Coran; Teflon; refined petroleum products sold under the brands Conoco, Jet and Seca; the fungicides Benlate; Benomyl and Carbendazim; fishing lines sold under the brand names High Impact, Magnathin, Magnum, Prime Plus, and Stren; Du Pont brand paints, cement and lacquers; Lucite paints.

MONSANTO

NutraSweet, Equal, BGH (aka rBGH, rBST and Posilac); Simplese (an artificial butter fat), Simple Pleasures Frozen Dairy Desserts, Salad Dressing and Mayonnaise, the artificial fibers Astroturf and Wear Dated Carpets; garden herbicides Roundup and Dimension; other agricultural chemicals — Lasso, Harness Plus, Far Go, Avauer, Machete, Bronco, Bullet, Crop Star GB, Freedom, Landmaster BW, Micro-Tech Partner, Ram Rod, Accord, Buckle, Fallow Master, Lariat, Rodeo; the Flavr Savr tomato. Be alert for dozens of new Monsanto genetically engineered plants including corn, potatoes and soybeans.

Dow, Du Pont & Monsanto own or share companies with the following pharmaceutical houses, whose drugs can also be boycotted: Marion Merrell Dow, Eli Lilly, Endo Labs, Du Pont Pharma, Du Pont Merck, GD Searle.

Demand that investors and institutions all over the world, such as universities, disinvest in the stock of these eight corporations.

The Great Boycott at (213) 243-9005
2633 Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 256
Santa Monica, California, 90405, USA

Un-Settling

Tucker Estron

Unsettled means changing, in flux, disturbed, stirred-up. The opposite of settled.

The European colonists who spread westward across North America called themselves "settlers," as though they were calming or taming something wild. In fact, the story they told themselves was that they were "taming the wilderness," conveniently omitting the fact that the land they were taking already belonged to the various Native American nations and that, frankly, the "settlers" were tearing it up, fouling the rivers, exterminating the wildlife, and generally trashing what had been a pretty nice place to live.

The settlers' (and I use that term with all the irony it deserves) irresponsibility about the land of North America and its varied ecosystems led to nasty things like topsoil loss, extinction of many plants and animals, water so polluted it isn't safe to drink, and carcinogenic chemicals working their way up the food-chain and into the breastmilk of every mother in the country. The devastation of Nature is not my main concern in this article, but it deserves a mention.

I propose that we descendents of "settlers" begin to un-settle, to stir ourselves up a little bit and face up to what needs to be done.

What I am more interested in is the issue of theft.

If I go and steal something, society will rightly punish me and return the stolen goods to the person I stole them from. If I knowingly buy some stolen things, I'm still guilty of the crime of possessing stolen property, and society will still punish me, and still give the stuff back to whomever it was stolen from. The one who had their stuff stolen is called the Rightful Owner. Now, as far as I can see, stolen stuff doesn't become un-stolen over time; as long as the Rightful Owner is around, it remains stolen stuff still owned by the Rightful Owner. This is true whether the stolen thing is a car, a diamond ring, money, or land.

The Europeans who stole this continent are no longer alive, so they're not available to be punished. Though the crimes they committed can never be avenged, the law's second step—return of the stolen property—can be accomplished, because the Rightful Owners of the land, the nations who held it prior tto the arrival of the settlers, are still around.

The land is still theirs, no matter who is currently in possession of it or how long they've had it. If the current governmental law doesn't recognize their ownership, the law of logic certainly does. Justice demands that the stolen lands be returned to their Rightful Owners, and here's where my idea comes in. I propose that we descendents of "settlers" begin to un-settle, to stir ourselves up a little bit and face up to what needs to be done.

Imagine if everyone who descended from settlers gave the land back to its Rightful Owners. This would certainly help correct some of the imbalance of wealth and power, and may even be a step toward alleviating some of the damage that the settlers did. (Historically, the Native American nations have a much better track record when it comes to maintaining land than European countries do. Even England was once covered by beautiful forests.)

I'm not idealistic enough to think that we'll un-settle all at once, in one big move. That's not likely to happen. This situation took generations to create, and it'll take a long time to rectify. But what I intend to do, and what I hope other descendents of settlers will do, is return my portion of any land I inherit, and when I buy land, I'll stipulate in my will that it should be returned to its Rightful Owners when I die.

It is time to begin the un-settling of America. Time to tell ourselves a new story, the story of the generation that had the courage to meet the difficult demands of justice and the integrity to turn down illegitimate privileges and power. ◆

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(Briefs, continued)

middle of the week for a simple, friendly witness for peace and nonviolence! We have maintained this vigil for more that 20 years. We provide signs or you may bring your own. Info: (360) 491-9093. Sponsored by Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Friday Afternoon Vigil to Lift the Economic Sanctions Against Iraq

4:30pm - 5:30pm on W. 4th Ave

(near the fountain, south of Percival Landing)

Economic sanctions kill 5,000 Iraqi children every month and violate international law. Grassroots people can lift up this issue and pressure the U.S. government to stop this violent injustice! We provide signs or you may bring your own. Info: (360) 491-9093.

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

PFLAG's Meeting

Valentine's Day Celebration
Sunday, Feb. 11th at 2pm
United Methodist Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Right To Know Campaign

- Much of the food on our supermarket shelves has been genetically engineered
- Europe has banned the sale of genetically engineered (GE) foods
- In the USA, no GE food products are labeled as such

You can do something about it!

Join the "Mothers and Fathers for Safe Foods" to organize the fight to have all GE food products labeled. Help plan a state initiative to require mandatory labeling of GE foods. Contact Michael at (360) 413-6961, <goldenspirit1@earthlink.net> or <www.safefood.org>.

(Accountability, continued)

misconduct. I don't think the police have ever shown themselves capable of doing this, and are not the ones to do the job. I think we need to institute a Civilian Review Board of police complaints with a citizen investigator that has subpoena and disciplinary powers as Olympia Copwatch proposed to the Olympia City Council in 1996. This recent study and the previous one support such a proposal and make veteran Copwatcher Frank Hoffman's words prophetic: "The city should save the money and not do the Walters study but apply that money towards implementing a Civilian Review Board *now*."

The city's General Goverment committee will be looking at what the city's next steps are, if any. You can pick up a copy of the report at city hall. A Copwatch manual for Olympia can be had by sending $1 in stamps to CopWatch c/o WIP at PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507. ◆

Poverty

by Frank Hoffman

The poor are always with us, they say. And they appear to be right. They often are. These old guys hedge their bets, though, by writing the books and making the laws. So things turn out the way they predict.

It's possible, for example, to predict who will be in jail. And who won't be in jail. Use crack? To jail. Bilk a Savings and Loan? Let us let the taxpayers help you out.

Is it possible to predict who will be poor? Well, one school would say, they start out poor, so it must be genetic. The same with the relatively well-to-do -- they're doing good because they are good.

There are jobs out there for everybody who wants them, those same people say. (Who will raise our children while everybody is out there at those jobs?) I mean everybody is supposed to be out there working away, they say. Everybody. Don't make enough money, work two jobs. Put your kids in child care, that's what you do, and cut your whining.

Some economists call this, "disciplining the work force." You make people hungry (literally, you deny them food), they will do any job and they will not complain, particularly if they have children. The hungry people know if they complain, they will be fired and other hungry people will be hired to replace them. Without blushing or stammering, this is how mainstream economists say things are supposed to work. Ask one.

If you want to predict who will be the poor in a society, it seems they would be the people with relatively the least power and status. The ones pushed down because of this status and power differential. Some sociologists would say that, and view it as a common sense observation.

Why is that most of the poor in the U.S. are women and children? And, disproportionately, people whose ancestors did not come from England or Western Europe.

Why are single mothers blamed for their poverty? The births of their children did not occur as a result of immaculate conception. Is male heterosexuality allright, "normal", and female sexuality bad, bad, bad and deserving of punishment?

Maybe sex is over rated and parenting under rated. Maybe we need to have ads on television recruiting good parents instead of ads recruiting warriors and selling a soulless beauty.

Why don't we talk about valuing children instead of preaching about "family values" and the value of work? What would a society that valued children look like? What would a society that did not require the poverty of millions of women look like? George W. is not going to raise such questions. I believe we must. The people who can imagine a just society, we must.

The Olympia Free School

A Community Education Network

Olympia Freeskool is a networking tool for community organizations and individuals from every age, ethnic background and class who want to learn and share knowledge. The Free School provides information on free educational opportunites. It also provides a way for skills and knowledge possesed by members of the community to be disseminated.

The Free School is composed of community members organizing the school and community members who put on workshops, give classes, or offer themselves as contacts for skills or knowledge.

The Free School has been in the form of a pamphlet that contains information on skills or knowledge that people are willing to be contacts for as well as providing a venue for people to request skills or knowledge that they wish to know more about. The pamphlet also has a calender of specific classes or workshops that alresdy exist within the community and ones that individuals offer specifically for Free School.

There is, as of yet, no specific space that Free School classes are held. Instead, we have been utilizing community spaces or individual's houses. The Free School is still in its beginning stages (the first calander came out in November) and there is a lot of room to come forward and request it to fit people's needs. It is defined only by the direction its members push it in.

The February calender will be put out the first of the month. Look for pamphlets around town. There will also be specific bulliten boards in places around Olympia with information: at Kundalini's, Orca Books, Radio Ranch, Evergreen College, Traditions (there will be a rolodex), and at the downtown library. There will also be a calender on the web; at www.olynetwork.org There is a link to the Free School.

Starting in March, WIP will carry the Free School calender.

If you have any information about community classes or workshops that can be added to the calender, please contact us. If you want to add your own class or an idea for a class, contact us.

We have weekly meetings at 816 Adams (Media Island International) at 7pm on Thursdays.

You can contact us by calling Adriana at 753 6909 or email us at olyskool@hotmail.com

Skill Or Knowledge To Share

Skills

-Literacy network...ESL, adult skills, GED prep...754-7482
-Project even start...Adult education and esl at garfield elementary... 586-7398
-German...Adele 866-8511
-DIY ed. by scavenging cheap books...David 534 9278
-Portuguese...Ethan 3579924/ eirogol@hotmail.com
-Bike maintenance...Kevin 352-7250
-Wood/metal working...Cailean Tomokato kun@yahoo.com
-Community biodiesel collective...Jim 866-4808
-Phonewiring/telecommunications...Andrew 943-7149
-Native plant identification...Andrew 943-7149
-Electronics...Brian lindbloom65@yahoo.com

Arts and Performance

-Playback theater for Latino women @ radio ranch 709-0931
-Ocarina (clay flute)-making...David 357-3622
-Ceramics for people under 12 yrs...Georgia 867 9477
-Writing group ...Will 704 7693
-Circus...Ashi 867-0416
-Oragami...Rus rdnelson42@hotmail.com
-Arts and crafts for kids: Claudine Reynolds 786-8986
-Guitar...Cailen Tomokato kun@yahoo.com
-Classical guitar...Brian lindbloom65@yahoo.com
-Quilting/baby quilts...Sarah Vetas 867 1861 sarahv@olywa.net

Social Awareness

-Critical pedagogy group...Ben benmichaelis@earthlink.net
-Youth oppression/youth liberation...Adele 866- 8511
-Land use monitoring group & research about land issues...Robin 866-4496
-Workshops and groups going into women's prisons: Stephanie 352-7086
-Corporate rights & evolution of corporate power:Leon 352-7250
-Alternative teaching methods...David 704-3052:
-Labor history...olywobs@hotmail.com
-Anarchist history...oshan@tao.ca

And Other Things..

-Astronomy...Leon 352-7250
-Tool library...David 704-3052
-Work exchange for horse classes for girls age 10-14 @ radio ranch 709-0931
-Ghetto gourmet...Russ rdnelson42@hotmail.com
-Soymilk and tofu-making: Ethan 357-9924
-Goddess spirituality for children...Diana 753-9664 or Anastasia 754-8287
-Radical Woman's discussion group...Natalie 704-5358

Looking for a Group to Explore:

Arts and Performance

-DJing...Kaitlyn 943-4969
-Film making...Si 956-3409 and Justin 704-5358
-Writing group...Georgia 867 9477
-Life drawing...Amanda 753-3004
-Knitting/discussion group...Carol 427-4418
-Massage...Amanda 704-3052
-Finding Community Art Space...Lisa, glowcat@juno.com
-Emily Dickinson's poetry...Pam 754-5396

Skills

-Auto mechanics...Carol 427-4418
-Audio editing...Leon 570-0039
-Using copiers and doing layout...Adele 866-8511
-Beginning Spanish...Georgia 867 9477
-Beginning/intermediate French...Lynn 867-1181
-Japanese: Kacie 413-920
-Pirate Broadcasting: Kevin 352-7250

Science

-Science fair...Carol 427-4418
-Identifying indigenous plants...Tyson 867-0257
-Permaculture...Jim and Raisa 866-4808
-Herbal Remedies...Ariana 753-6909
-Composting toilets...Ethan 357-9924

Discussions

-Corporate colonization of culture...Leon 352-7250

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